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BOOK REVIEWS

Elementary Woodworking. By EDWIN W. FOSTER. Boston: Ginn & Co.
Pp. 130.

This little book is one of the most pleasing recent additions to the literature of immediate working value to the student and teacher of manual training. It is printed on a good quality of paper, with clear type and profuse illustrations. To quote the author in his preface: "The function of the text is to supplement the instruction of the teacher. It is intended to gather up and arrange in a logical order the facts which the pupil has already been told. It is believed that the text can be used to the greatest advantage by requiring the pupil to read up the subject presented in class immediately after the close of the lesson."

A departure is made from the majority of books heretofore written on woodworking, by the intentional omission of any suggested series of models; for, as the author explains: "It is hardly possible for any two schools to follow the same series of models. Local conditions necessarily affect the choice of a course, while new and better designs are being brought out continually."

"With the earnest hope that nature-study and manual work may be closely correlated," the writer makes Part II a charming and simple introduction to trees, and to the bark and leaves of each, whose woods are most commonly used in school work. By means of simple language, apt little anecdotes, and good illustrations, the reader finds himself at the close possessing a practical means of recognizing his familiar tree neighbors. A feature which commends itself to the reader is the fact that the writer wastes no time in giving superfluous information.

The book is one to be recommended to any who wish practical aid in woodworking.

ANNETTE BUTLER.

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New Century History of the United States. By EDWARD EGGLESTON. New York: American Book Co. Pp. 453, with maps and illustrations. \$1.

The preparation of this book was the last literary work of its author. He was convinced that there was a peculiar need of such a history, and he devoted all his energies to supplying it. His purpose was to tell the story of our country so briefly that it might be mastered within the usual time allotted to the study, and yet to preserve its interest unimpaired by condensation. He has succeeded admirably, and the high literary quality of the narrative is a noteworthy feature of the book. He has been especially successful in presenting those facts of the home life of the people and of their progress in civilization which are more essential to their history than any mere record of wars and political parties. One novel feature of the book is a collection of brief biographies of about one hundred of the most prominent men who appear in the history. The illustrations are